

### c.—THERAPEUTICS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND MIND.

**ALCOHOL AND THERMOGENESIS.**—We give below the conclusions of a paper on the physiological action of alcohol in its relations to animal heat by Dr. W. Bevan Lewis, published in the *Journal of Mental Science* for April of the present year. The animals experimented upon were chiefly rabbits, which were weighed, observed with a calorimeter, and then put under the influence of dilute alcohol introduced into the stomach. The results were as follows:

1. A primary check to heat formation most marked and protracted when *small doses* of alcohol have been given.
2. A pronounced fall in body temperature most marked during the first quarter of an hour, and therefore coincident with the primary check to thermogenesis. (1.)
3. A greatly increased heat formation varying directly with the strength of the dose administered.
4. This increased heat product is manifested over a more prolonged period after larger doses of alcohol.
5. This increase in the heat product is gradually augmented from time to time, until the heat climax is reached, a period usually coincident with the registry of the lowest bodily temperature.
6. The heat climax is more protracted or postponed, and also greatest in degree with the stronger doses of alcohol.
7. The greatest loss of heat units from the temperature occurring, as before stated, during the first interval, subsequent intervals are marked by a still progressive loss, which, however, becomes less towards the period of heat climax, when a restitution of the *norma* of temperature begins.
8. With *small doses* of alcohol this restitution of body temperature is usually sudden, or comparatively rapid in operation; after *large doses* the return to the *norma* of temperature is spread over a longer period, being extremely tardy when very large doses have been administered.
9. These observations are directly in antagonism to the views already quoted (of H. C. Wood.—ED.), that "*Alcohol in very large doses lowers temperature by directly checking tissue metamorphosis.*"
10. The above considerations appear to justify the conclusion that the *characteristic* action of alcohol is that of greatly increasing the heat product, while dispersion of the fresh formed heat is facilitated by peripheral vaso-motor paresis, and that it is only in very small doses that we get a temporary lowering of heat formation.
11. The action of chloral as affecting thermogenesis being similar to that of alcohol, we obtain by their combination a most powerful vaso-motor depressant, and one which should be used with great caution.

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**PRESSURE IN NEURALGIA OF THE TESTIS.**—Dr. W. A. Hammond, *St. Louis Courier of Medicine*, May, gives an account of two cases of obstinate

1. Bromide of ethyl, by either inhalation or subcutaneous use, kills by a toxic action on the centres of respiration.
2. That the decrease of force and frequency of the heart contribute to the paralysis of the respiratory centres.
3. That injections of ethyl into the jugular toward the heart kill by cardiac arrest, probably due to an action on the cardiac muscles.
4. Bromide of ethyl in toxic doses depresses momentarily the frequency of the heart, followed by a subsequent permanent rise to normal rate.
5. Bromide of ethyl in toxic doses depresses the actual tension steadily, due in major part to the depressant action of the drug upon the heart, and in minor part to a partial loss of tone of either the spinal vaso-motor centres or the peripheral vaso-motor system.
6. The inhibitory power of the pneumogastric is not paralyzed.

The following are some of the articles recently published on the Therapeutics of the Nervous System and Mind:

MARION-SIMS, The Bromide of Ethyl as an Anæsthetic, *N. Y. Med. Record*, April 3.—DAVIS, Hints upon the Treatment of Paralysis in Early Life, *Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, March 25.—HALDEMAN, If Veratrum Viride is a Sure Antidote for Opium Poisoning in the Acute Form, may it not be in the Chronic? *Cin. Lancet and Clinio*, May 22.—FOWLER, The Surgical Treatment of Facial Neuralgia, *Ann. Anat. and Surg. Soc.*, May.—TERRILL, De l'Anæsthesie générale par le Bromure d' Ethyle, *Bull. Gen. de Théráp.*, April 30.—BRAMWELL, Nerve Stretching as a Remedy for Sciatica, *Brit. Med. Jour.*, June 19.—JONES, The Physiological Action of Atropia as Demonstrated by Experiment, *N. O. Med. and Surg. Jour.*, June.—BERNABEI, Azione dell' Atropina sul Cuore Umano, *Rivista Clinica di Bologna*, February and March.—GRAY, Hyoscyamia in Insanity, *American Journal of Insanity*, April.—LINDSAY, The Protection Bed and its Uses, *Ibid.*